

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 4 through 15 remain pending in this Application. Claim 1 has been currently amended. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled without prejudice. Minor amendments have been made in the Specification. No new matter has been entered.

5 Applicants have amended the Specification to conform to the amendment requested for Claim 1.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the acceptance and entry of the requested amendments by the Examiner for Claims 1 and 2, thereby overcoming the claim rejections set forth in sections 1 through 6 of the relevant Office Action.

10 Applicants further acknowledge the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 6-15 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Banks US 5,991,922.

Paragraph 3 of the Final Office Action states that Claim 1 is objected due to an informality. The Final Office Action suggests that Claim 1 being amended to recite "are in electrically conducting engagement" rather than "urged into electrically conducting engagement."

15 Applicants agree with the suggested rewording of Claim 1 as set forth in Paragraph 3 and request that the suggested correction to be entered.

Paragraph 5 of the Final Office Action rejects Claims 1-15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Banks. The Final Office Action advises that Bank teaches a static electricity dissipation garment comprising a pantsuit having a torso region, arm sleeves, cuffs and leg portions. The pantsuit is woven from electrically conductive polyester fibers. The strands are spaced apart and oriented in a crisscross pattern. It is further presented that an electrically conductive ribbon edges the garment and works in conjunction with the electricity dissipation circuit. The rejection is hereby respectfully traversed. Applicants urge that the combination of features that were previously claimed in Claim 2 (sharply bent second electronically conductive yarns to promote corona discharge), and Claim 3 (relative spacing between the first and the second electrically conductive yarns) with Claim 1 (Thrice amended) defining a construction or combination that is not disclosed or suggested In Bank alone or in combination with the prior art.

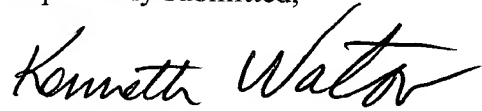
The Final Office Action further presents an argument that the relative diameters of the first and the second electrically conductive yarns as specified in Claim 1 do not confer inventiveness since no criticality had been associated with this feature and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to vary the yarn size for reasons of aesthetic or strength properties. However, we believe that this feature, in combination with the relative spacing feature now incorporated from Claim 3 (canceled), provides an inventive combination relative to Banks, especially in conjunction with the corona discharge feature now incorporated from Claim 2 (canceled).

The relative sizes and spacing of the first and second electrically conductive yarns, as discussed in page 8 of the original specification, the yarns of the components of the garments and the yarns of the strip or tape are virtually guaranteed to make physical and electrical contact,

thereby enhancing strength and electrical continuity. This is not inevitably the case with Banks. Likewise, the sharp bends in the second yarns in the strip or tape create suitable conditions for corona discharge, thereby enhancing the protective properties of the garment. It is not possible to discern this from Banks. Moreover, in the absence of any hint in Banks as to the desirability of corona discharge, there would have been no motivation for the person of ordinary skill to have considered ensuring that the second conductors provide the opportunity for corona discharge. Applicants note, in this regard, that the Examiner passed no comment on this additional feature in her rejection of the claims for lack of inventive step. Applicants assume, therefore that the Examiner would accept that the claimed combination of features provides a garment with significantly enhanced mechanical and electrical strength, electrical continuity and durability, with enhanced electrical properties at least in part attributable to the corona discharge feature, and not in any way obvious in the face of Banks.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants submit that the claims are now in proper form, and that the claims all define patentably over the prior art. Applicants submit that this Application is now in condition for allowance. As indicated heretofore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the interpretation of the teachings of the prior art relative to the claims as now presented, and respectfully request the allowance of the claims, and issuance of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth Watov". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

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